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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (b) and (c) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 38th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.27 and L.57

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.27), which read as follows:

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

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as well as the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, 1/

"Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

"Emphasizing that empowering women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women contribute to the economy through both their remunerated and unremunerated work,

"Recognizing that the economic and financial crisis that exists in many developing countries has resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and in female-headed households,

"Aware that women's continued lack of equal access to education and training, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to and opportunity to benefit from development,

"Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of employment for women in many developing countries,

"Noting the important role played by the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the integration of women in development,

"1. Welcomes the adoption of the Beijing Declaration 2/ and Platform for Action 3/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women;

"2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development; 1/

"3. Notes with satisfaction the inclusion in the Platform for Action of critical areas of concern, namely, women in poverty, women in the economy, and women and the environment;

"4. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

1/ A/50/399.

2/ A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

3/ Ibid., annex II.

"5. Calls upon all Governments to create an enabling environment to ensure the full participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of policy and legal measures and provisions of other necessary structures;

"6. Requests the international community, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to assist developing countries by providing opportunities, including scholarships, to women and girls, in particular in the areas of science, technical and vocational training, so as to facilitate the full and effective contribution of women to development;

"7. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to ensure that a higher proportion of measures reach women in rural and remote areas."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development" (A/C.2/50/L.66), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46, and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 6, in the second line, the words "at the above-mentioned Conference" were replaced with the words "in Beijing", and in the third line, the word "by" was replaced with the word "through";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, in the fourth line, the words "by increasing women's" were replaced with the words "through increased", and in the fifth line, the word "by" was inserted before the word "women's".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Japan (see A/C.2/50/SR.42).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.46 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

7. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level, submitted under item 95 (c) (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held at Istanbul,

Noting with satisfaction the progress that has been made so far in the preparations for the Conference, as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session 5/ and the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 6/

Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 7/ and Agenda 21 8/ for the purpose of guiding the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference,

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

6/ A/50/519.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

8/ Ibid., annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 5/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities, decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference; 9/

2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 16 February 1996;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

4. Notes with interest the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the Conference the dimensions of a "city summit", and reaffirms that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation;

5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise the extrabudgetary resources required for Conference activities and preparations;

6. Renews its appeal to all Governments, especially the Governments of developed countries and other Governments in a position to do so, as well as to international and regional financial institutions, to make substantial contributions to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference and supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process;

7. Encourages all relevant non-governmental organizations that are interested, especially organizations from developing countries, to participate in and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process on the basis of the procedures adopted at recent United Nations conferences;

9/ As amended in A/C.2/50/9 and Corr.1.

12. Requests the United Nations development system to work towards establishing a more coherent approach to its support for women's income-generating activities, in particular credit schemes;

13. Decides to include on the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development";

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution.